

Fw: statement on Wind River NPDES permits

Richard Mylott to: Lisa McClain-Vanderpool

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From: Richard Mylott/R8/USEPA/US

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From: Richard Mylott/R8/USEPA/US
To: Elizabeth Shogren <EShogren@npr.org>
Date: 10/26/2012 03:35 PM
Subject: statement on Wind River NPDES permits

Hi Elizabeth-- sincere apologies for the extended delay since your initial inquiry. I understand that some documents were provided this week in response to your follow-up FOIA request, which I hope covers the info you were looking for in your most recent email. We anticipate meeting with the Tribes in upcoming weeks to discuss next steps in the renewal of several discharge permits on the Wind River Reservation. As part of our trust responsibility in issuing water permits on the Reservation, we have a commitment to provide the Tribes with current information on the details and status of our evaluation and want to make sure that we have an opportunity to do that before doing interviews. I hope that the statement below is helpful. Please attribute to EPA. Thanks for your patience!

EPA Statement

EPA is currently evaluating several Clean Water Act discharge permits, which are up for renewal, that cover produced water from production wells on the Wind River Reservation. We are committed to coordinating closely with the Tribes to ensure these permits are technically sound and include conditions necessary to protect surface water uses in the area, including those for wildlife, livestock and other agricultural uses.

EPA routinely evaluates Clean Water Act permits when their terms expire to ensure the renewed permits account for current activity and the best available technical information. Each permit is unique and tailored to specific circumstances, including receiving water uses and activity at individual wells.

EPA is reviewing new information associated with these permits and intends to meet with the Tribes in upcoming weeks to discuss next steps. Any renewed permits will be released as draft and will be subject to public review and comment prior to becoming effective.

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